(c) the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA):

(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Transportation of foodgrains to Karnataka

4460. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of wagons required to transport foodgrains under various schemes of Government to different parts of Karnataka;

(b) how may wagons have, so far, been despatched; and

(c) whether railway would despatch more wagons to expedite transportation of foodgrains in Northern Karnataka districts which are facing severe drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India (F.C.I) has given a programme of movement of 109 foodgrain rakes for Karnataka for the month of April, 2003. Upto 28th April 2003, the Railways have loaded 110 rakes for transportation of foodgrains to Karnataka for Public Distribution System (P.D.S.) and other welfare schemes.

(c) Railways co-ordinate with F.C.I to ensure availability of adequate foodgrains in Karnataka.

Fast train between Amritsar and Chandigarh

4461. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways propose to introduce the fast train to link Amritsar—Chandigarh and whether any survey has been conducted in this regard :

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Transfer of employees

4462. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the formation of East Central Railway—headquartered at Hajipur—a number of Eastern Railways employees were transferred;

(b) if so, furnish the number of vacancies in Eastern Railway in the wake of above mentioned transfers; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to fill those posts; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. 628 staff from Eastern Railway have so far been transferred to East Central Railway, Hajipur on the basis of options called from the employees.

(b) and (c) 43% Group 'C' and 'D' posts from Headquarter Office of Eastern Railway are identified to be transferred to East Central Railway, Hajipur. Since all the posts to be transferred may not be vacant, for the present, only vacant posts are being transferred. This process will continue till reduction in 43% of posts in Eastern Railway Headquarter Office is achieved. Further, all the optees are now being transferred to East Central Railway, Hajipur alongwith their posts. Therefore, the question of vacancies occurring in Eastern Railway in the wake of above transfers does not arise.

Shortage of goods train

†4463. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of goods trains is causing difficulty in the carriage of goods;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to solve the problem; and

(c) the details of special efforts being made by Government to increase the participation of railways in goods carriage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.